



LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM  
Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED STATES COURTS

CLARENCE A. LEE, JR.  
Associate Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

September 30, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO ALL: CHIEF JUDGES, UNITED STATES COURTS  
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVES  
FEDERAL PUBLIC/COMMUNITY DEFENDERS  
DISTRICT COURT EXECUTIVES  
CLERKS, UNITED STATES COURTS  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
CHIEF PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS  
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEYS  
CHIEF PREARGUMENT/CONFERENCE ATTORNEYS  
BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATORS  
CIRCUIT LIBRARIANS

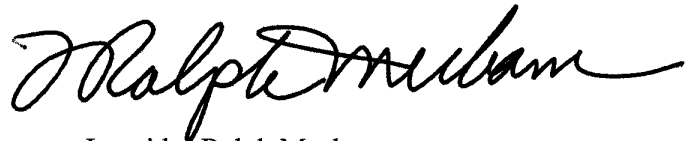
SUBJECT: Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2000 (**IMPORTANT AND URGENT INFORMATION**)

The Congress has passed and the President has signed a short-term continuing resolution (through October 21, 1999) for those agencies, including the judiciary, that will not have an enacted appropriations bill by October 1, 1999.

Under this continuing resolution, we will issue interim funding allotments to the courts to allow for operations pending passage and approval of an appropriations act. These allotments will represent a portion of each court's full year allowance and they will be made available electronically by October 1, 1999. Allowable obligation rates, however, are influenced by the provisions of the continuing resolution, which require that you operate at no more than the 1999 rate of obligations, in total, for all expense categories (budget object codes) by fund. To do so, and maintain current staffing levels, all discretionary contracts and acquisitions of goods and services should be deferred (e.g., tenant alterations, training, office automation and other equipment purchases, furniture purchases, etc.). The court should plan to continue to operate at these reduced levels until the judiciary receives its final appropriation and full-year allotments are issued.

If the circumstances in Congress change and make it necessary to prepare for a lapse in appropriations, we will issue more specific guidance to the courts as information becomes available. As I communicated in my September 21, 1999 memorandum, in the event Congress does not act by October 21 to appropriate funds to the judiciary either through an appropriations bill or additional continuing resolution, the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference has authorized me to make arrangements to pay for the continuation of the current level of Judicial Branch operations from fees collected in FY 1999 and balances from prior year fee collections. The practical effect of this action will be to avoid any lapse in judiciary funding for as long as fee balances remain available.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please call your appropriate liaison in the Budget Division.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonidas Ralph Mecham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leonidas" and last name "Mecham" clearly legible.

Leonidas Ralph Mecham